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April 18, 2006

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**Art Unit 3743**

**Attn: Certificate of Correction Branch**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent No. 6,988,496; Issued: January 24, 2006  
(From Appl. No. 09/511,267; Filed: February 23, 2000)  
For: **Cartridge for a Liquid**  
Inventors: EICHER *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0652.2020002/LAH/AFK

**Certificate**

APR 20 2006

**of Correction**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Request for Certificate of Correction Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.322;
2. PTO Form SB/44;
3. Copy of the Amendment filed August 4, 2005; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

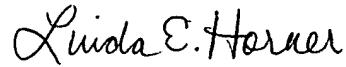
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
April 18, 2006  
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Linda E. Horner  
Attorney for Patentees  
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LAH/AFK/k-b  
Enclosures

518877v1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re patent of:  
EICHER *et al.*  
Patent. No.: 6,988,496 B1  
Issued: January 24, 2006  
For: Cartridge for a Liquid

Confirmation No.: 3620  
Art Unit: 3743  
Examiner: Mitchell, Teena Kay  
Atty. Docket: 0652.2020002/LAH/AFK

**Request for Certificate of Correction  
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.322**

*Attn: Certificate of Correction Branch*

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

It is hereby requested that a Certificate of Correction under 37 C.F.R. § 1.322 be issued for the above-captioned United States Patent. This Certificate of Correction is being requested due to mistakes which appear in the printed patent. These mistakes were made by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Specifically, the printed patent contains the following errors for which a Certificate of Correction is respectfully requested:

Claim 6, column 8, line 42, "fennel-shaped" should read --funnel-shaped--.

Claim 30, column 9, line 47, "is seated in adjacent" should read --is sealed adjacent--.

Claim 40, column 10, line 45, "diffusion-tight scaling foil" should read -- diffusion-tight sealing foil--.

Claim 41, column 10, line 52, "diagram" should read --diaphragm--.

APR 21 2006

A copy of the Amendment filed August 4, 2005, showing the correct claim language is enclosed.

***Remarks***

The above-noted corrections do not involve such changes in the patent as would constitute new matter or would require reexamination.

A completed Form PTO/SB/44 accompanies this request, with the above-noted corrections printed thereon. Accordingly, a Certificate of Correction is believed proper and issuance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

*Linda E. Horner*

Linda E. Horner  
Attorney for Patentees  
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Date: April 18, 2006

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518874v1

APR 21 2006

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO: 6,988,496 B1

Page 1 of 1

DATED: January 24, 2006

INVENTOR(S): EICHER *et al.*

It is certified that error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below.

Claim 6, column 8, line 42, "fennel-shaped" should read --funnel-shaped--.

Claim 30, column 9, line 47, "is seated in adjacent" should read --is sealed adjacent--.

Claim 40, column 10, line 45, "diffusion-tight scaling foil" should read --diffusion-tight sealing foil--.

Claim 41, column 10, line 52, "diagram" should read --diaphragm--.

518849v1

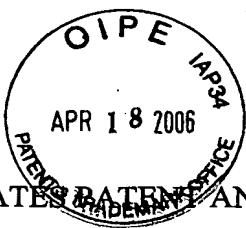
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1100 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington DC 20005-3934  
Atty. Dkt. No. 0652.2020002/LAH/AFK

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323 and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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APR 21 2006



**COPY**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

EICHER *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/511,267

Filed: February 23, 2000

For: Cartridge for a Liquid

Confirmation No.: 3620

Art Unit: 3743

Examiner: Mitchell, Teena Kay

Atty. Docket: 0652.2020002/ALF

**Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312**

***Mail Stop Issue Fee***

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herein is an Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. As payment of the issue fee has not yet been made or is filed herewith, Applicants respectfully submit that filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 is proper. (M.P.E.P. § 714.16.)

It is believed that extensions of time are not required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this Amendment. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

***Amendments to the Claims***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-38 (canceled).

39. (previously presented) A cartridge for a liquid, which can be connected to a dispensing device, the dispensing device including an upper portion for receiving the cartridge and a lower portion which can be pushed over the cartridge when connected to the dispensing device, the upper portion of the dispensing device being provided with a connection portion for the cartridge and with a dispensing connection portion for drawing off the liquid, the cartridge comprising:

a stiff outer casing including a top portion and a bottom portion, the top portion of the outer casing being coupled to the upper portion of the dispensing device;

a container which is stable with respect to shape and which is disposed in the casing; and

a collapsible bag disposed in the container and containing the liquid,  
wherein the bottom portion of the stiff outer casing is provided with an opening,  
and

wherein the container includes an opening and a stopper, the stopper including an insertion connection portion which forms a sealingly closing, centered guide means for the dispensing connection portion, and

wherein the stopper is connected by the outer casing to the container, and

wherein the cartridge is connected to the connection portion on the upper portion of the dispensing device.

40. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the cartridge is releasably connected to the connection portion by means of a plug connection.

41. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the cartridge is releasably connected to the connection portion by means of a screw connection or a bayonet connection.

42. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stopper is connected to the container by means of a snap connection.

43. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stopper comprising a thermoplastic material is non-releasably connected to the container which also comprises a thermoplastic material by means of a welded joint with merging of the materials.

44. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, further comprising a funnel-shaped centered guide means including guide ribs disposed within the insertion connection portion of the stopper.

45. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the sealingly closing guide means for the dispensing connection portion comprises a press fit provided on the stopper.
46. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stopper is provided at an end of the insertion connection portion with a diaphragm disposed inclinedly with respect to an axis of the insertion connection portion.
47. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein a sealing disc provided with sealing beads is disposed between an upper edge of the container and an inside of the stopper.
48. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein an inside of the stopper is provided with a sealing lip.
49. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stiff outer casing is diffusion tight, except for the opening thereof.
50. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stiff outer casing is provided with a plurality of inwardly projecting projections.
51. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stiff outer casing is a unitary piece.

52. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stiff outer casing comprises two pieces.

53. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stiff outer casing is a deep-drawn metal casing.

54. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 53, wherein the stiff outer casing is made of aluminum.

55. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stiff outer casing comprises a plastic material.

56. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 55, wherein the stiff outer casing is a thermoplastic material.

57. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein a projecting bead is provided at the bottom of the stiff outer casing.

58. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the bottom of the stiff outer casing includes a recess.

59. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 58, wherein the stiff outer casing is provided within the recess with an opening with a diameter of between 0.1 millimeter and 5 millimeters.

60. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 58, wherein the stiff outer casing is provided within the recess with an insert including a micro-opening which communicates with the opening in the bottom of the stiff outer casing, and wherein if the micro-opening is circular in cross-section, a diameter of the circular cross-section is between 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and 500  $\mu\text{m}$  and is of a length of between 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and 5000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

61. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the insert is provided with a filter adjacent the micro-opening.

62. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 53, wherein the stiff outer casing is provided with at least one peripherally extending crease which embraces the stopper.

63. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 56, wherein the stiff outer casing is connected to the stopper by means of a welded joint with merging of materials.

64. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein an upper part of the stiff outer casing is provided with a peripherally extending groove which embraces the lower edge of the stopper.

65. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein an upper part of the stiff outer casing is provided with a flanged-over portion which embraces the upper edge of the stopper.

66. (currently amended) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the cartridge is sealed [[in]] adjacent the stopper by a diffusion-tight-sealing foil.

67. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein an outside of the bottom of the stiff outer casing is sealed by a diffusion-tight sealing foil.

68. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 67, wherein provided in a central region of the sealing foil on the outside of the bottom of the stiff casing is a free space which is covered by the sealing foil.

69. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 57, wherein the cartridge can be pulled out of the dispensing device by means of a withdrawal aid which can be pushed under the projecting bead.

70. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 64, wherein the connection portion on the upper portion of the dispensing device is provided with snap hooks which engage into the peripherally extending groove in the upper part of the stiff outer casing after the cartridge has been pushed into the dispensing device.

71. (canceled)

72. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 67, wherein an inside of the bottom of the lower portion of the dispensing device is provided with a piercing device for the sealing foil which is disposed on the outside of the bottom of the stiff outer casing.

73. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39 for an alcoholic or aqueous liquid, wherein the container and the stopper comprise polypropylene, further comprising a collapsible bag of polyethylene disposed in the container, wherein:

the stiff outer casing comprises a metal, preferably aluminum, or a plastic material, preferably polypropylene;

an end of the insertion connection portion is closed by a diaphragm inclined with respect to an axis of the insertion connection portion and the sealingly closing, centered guide means is a press fit and is connected by a snap connection to the container;

the cartridge is releasably connected to the connection portion by means of a releasable plug connection, the releasable plug connection being a snap connection in which there are provided in the connection portion of the upper portion of the dispensing

device snap hooks which engage into a peripherally extending groove in an upper region of the cartridge;

the opening at the bottom of the stiff outer casing is a bore or the bottom of the outer casing includes an inset with a micro-opening which communicates with a bore in the outer casing; and

an inside of the bottom of the lower portion of the dispensing device is provided with a resilient piercing device for a sealing foil on an underside of the bottom of the casing.

74. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39 for an alcoholic or aqueous liquid, wherein the container and the stopper comprise polypropylene, further comprising a collapsible bag of polyethylene disposed in the container, wherein:

the stiff outer casing comprises a metal, preferably aluminum;

an end of the stopper is closed by a diaphragm which is inclined to an axis of the insertion connection portion;

the sealingly, closing guide means is in the form of a press fit;

the connection between the cartridge and the connection portion of the dispensing device is a releasable connection in the form of a snap connection in which there are hooks provided in the connection portion of the upper portion of the dispensing device snap hooks which engage into a peripherally extending groove in an upper region of the cartridge;

an inside of the bottom of the lower portion of the dispensing device is provided with a resilient piercing device for a sealing foil on an underside of the bottom of the casing.

75. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 74, wherein the liquid contains a pharmacologically active substance.

76. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 73, wherein the liquid contains a pharmacologically active substance.

77. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the liquid contains a pharmacologically active substance.

78. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 74 for a medical liquid wherein the medical liquid contains one or more of the active substances Berotec (Fenoterol hydrobromide); 1-(3,5-dihydroxy-phenyl)-2-[[1-(4-hydroxy-benzyl)-ethyl]-amino]-ethanol hydrobromide), Atrovent (Ipratropium bromide), Berodual (combination of Fenoterol hydrobromide and Ipratropium bromide), Salbutamol, Salbutamol sulphate Combivent, Oxivent (Oxitropium bromide), Ba679 (Tiotropium bromide), BEA 2108 (di-(2-thienyl)-glycolic acid tropenol ester), Flunisolid, Budesonid and Beclomethasone.

79. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 73 for a medical liquid wherein the medical liquid contains one or more of the active substances Berotec

(Fenoterol hydrobromide); 1-(3,5-dihydroxy-phenyl)-2-[[1-(4-hydroxy-benzyl)-ethyl]-amino]-ethanol hydrobromide), Atrovent (Ipratropium bromide), Berodual (combination of Fenoterol hydrobromide and Ipratropium bromide), Salbutamol, Salbutomal sulphate Combivent, Oxivent (Oxitropium bromide), Ba679 (Tiotropium bromide), BEA 2108 (di-(2-thienyl)-glycolic acid tropenol ester), Flunisolid, Budesonid and Beclomethasone.

80. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39 for a medical liquid wherein the medical liquid contains one or more of the active substances Berotec (Fenoterol hydrobromide); 1-(3,5-dihydroxy-phenyl)-2-[[1-(4-hydroxy-benzyl)-ethyl]-amino]-ethanol hydrobromide), Atrovent (Ipratropium bromide), Berodual (combination of Fenoterol hydrobromide and Ipratropium bromide), Salbutamol, Salbutomal sulphate Combivent, Oxivent (Oxitropium bromide), Ba679 (Tiotropium bromide), BEA 2108 (di-(2-thienyl)-glycolic acid tropenol ester), Flunisolid, Budesonid and Beclomethasone.

81. (currently amended) Use of the cartridge according to claim 74 containing a medical liquid for producing an aerosol by means of an atomizer atomiser.

82. (previously presented) Use of the cartridge according to claim 73 containing a medical liquid for producing an aerosol by means of an atomiser.

83. (previously presented) Use of the cartridge according to claim 39 containing a medical liquid for producing an aerosol by means of an atomiser.

84. (previously presented) Use of the cartridge according to claim 74 containing a medical liquid for producing an inhalable aerosol for treatment of illnesses.

85. (previously presented) Use of the cartridge according to claim 73 containing a medical liquid for producing an inhalable aerosol for treatment of illnesses.

86. (previously presented) Use of the cartridge according to claim 39 containing a medical liquid for producing an inhalable aerosol for treatment of illnesses.

87. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the cartridge is releasably connected to the connection portion.

88. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 73, wherein a sealing disc provided with sealing beads is disposed between an upper edge of the container and an inside of the stopper.

89. (previously presented) A cartridge according to claim 73, wherein an outside of the bottom of the stiff outer casing is sealed by a diffusion-tight sealing foil.

90. (currently amended) A cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the stopper is non-releasably connected by the outer casing to the container.

91. (currently amended) A ~~eartiridge~~ cartridge according to claim 74, wherein  
the stopper is non-releasably connected by the outer casing to the container.

**Remarks**

None of the amendments add new matter.

The amendment corrects a formal matter without changing the scope of the claims. In particular, claims 66, 81, 91 and 92 are amended to correct typographical errors. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered.

Reconsideration of this application and entry of the above Amendments are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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